

EVERS MURDER PLOT IS HINTED

Three Men Arrested by
Mississippi Police

FAYETTE, Miss. (AP) — Authorities investigated a reported assassination plot against Negro Mayor Charles Evers Wednesday following the arrest of three men, one identified as a former Ku Klux Klan boss, and the confiscation of several weapons.

Dale Walton, 44, of Tupelo, identified as former imperial wizard of the Knights of the Green Forest and a civilian colonel on the staff of former Gov. Ross Barnett, was arrested Thursday night for speeding and carrying concealed weapons following a telephone tip that an assassination attempt would be made.

Officers at nearby Natchez moved in on a motel room registered to Walton and took into custody Bobby Haywood, 18, of Tupelo after saying they found a .45 caliber submachine gun in his possession. He was later turned over to agents of the federal alcohol, tobacco and firearms division.

ATF agents said the submachine gun was then traced to Pat Massengale, 50, of Hattiesburg. He was charged with illegally transferring the weapon to Haywood and was released on a \$1,000 personal recognizance bond after appearing before a U.S. commissioner.

Walton faces charges of violating federal firearms acts in addition to local charges of speeding and firearms possession charges.

Evers, an official of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the first Negro mayor of a biracial Mississippi city since Reconstruction, said he had had several reports of plots against his life but usually "did not pay much attention."

"But the last call made more sense than most," he said. "The lady identified the car . . . and said it was full of guns and they had been sent to kill me."

Evers said his daughter noticed the Walton car passing the shopping center and warned her father.

"I just threw up my hand and the police stopped him," Evers said. When Walton was asked why he had the weapons

in the car he replied 'none of your business.'

Walton was identified not only as a former official of the KKK splinter organization based in Tupelo but as the former exalted cyclops of the United Klans of America. He operates a combination general merchandise-sporting goods store in Tupelo.

Agents said Massengale was charged in 1968 with obstructing justice in an alleged attempt to tamper with a jury called to hear the murder trial of William Thomas Smith, accused of killing Hattiesburg Negro leader Vernon F. Dahmer. The Hattiesburg man was tried under an indictment, but the case ended in a mistrial.

Massengale was a campaign manager for Jimmy Swan when Swan ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1968 and has acted as Swan's bodyguard.